



**Kurt E. Floren**  
Agricultural Commissioner  
Director of Weights and Measures

## COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

### Department of Agricultural Commissioner/ Weights and Measures

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**Richard K. Iizuka**  
Chief Deputy

DATE: September 1, 2015

TO: Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich, Mayor, Fifth District  
Supervisor Hilda L. Solis, First District  
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, Second District  
Supervisor Sheila Kuehl, Third District  
Supervisor Don Knabe, Fourth District

FROM: Kurt E. Floren  
Agricultural Commissioner  
Director of Weights and Measures

SUBJECT: **UPDATE ON MULTIPLE EXOTIC PESTS IN COUNTY**

Since my previous update of August 13, 2015, there have been a number of developments regarding existing infestations of the significant citrus disease huanglongbing (HLB), also known as citrus greening, and the exotic insect pests Oriental Fruit Fly and Guava Fruit Fly.

#### **Huanglongbing**

No additional trees in San Gabriel have been confirmed as infected with HLB since my previous update. Intensive surveys of citrus trees and psyllids are ongoing. Prompted by the most recent confirmations, treatments of host plants (citrus and closely related) to control populations of Asian Citrus Psyllid, the vector of HLB, are scheduled to begin Tuesday, September 8, in an expanded treatment area. To provide information and answer questions from the public, ACWM staff will be joining the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) in hosting an open house public meeting this Thursday, September 3, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the San Francisco Room of the Hilton Los Angeles/San Gabriel, 225 W. Valley Boulevard, San Gabriel, CA. Invitations have been extended to all residents in the treatment expansion area in English, Chinese, Spanish, and Vietnamese language mailings as well as via local radio.

My staff is continuing to work closely with officials of CDFA and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to contain and eradicate HLB and to keep informed key staff of the involved Cities.

#### **Oriental Fruit Fly** *Bactrocera dorsalis*

There are now six distinct operations underway to eradicate infestations of Oriental Fruit Fly (OFF) in the county. Any single confirmed OFF specimen prompts delimitation trapping by CDFA to detect the extent of any existing infestation. If another is detected within a certain distance and time (lifespan/generation) from the initial detection, an eradication operation is undertaken that includes the previously described "male attractant" technique (MAT), in which male Oriental Fruit Flies ingest a small amount of pesticide after being lured by a pheromone within a protein bait placed upon streetside trees. Within a specified distance and single generation time frame, if there are found eight (8) or more OFF specimens, or any single mated female or larva, a breeding population is deemed to exist and a quarantine is established.



**Westchester/Inglewood (OFF)**

This project was initiated with the detection of a male OFF specimen on Friday, June 19, 2015.

Since my previous update, five (5) additional male specimens of Oriental Fruit Fly (OFF) were detected in the Westchester area (August 17, 18, and 19), bringing total finds to 15 males, 1 female, and 17 larvae. Please recall that an OFF quarantine, encompassing 94 square miles, became effective on July 3, 2015. Due to the locations of the latter finds, quarantine boundary expansions are currently under development. The fourth male attractant technique, as described in previous updates, was completed on Wednesday, August 19, and a fifth treatment is underway today.

**Covina (OFF)**

This project was initiated with the detection of a female OFF on Wednesday, July 8, 2015. Subsequently, one male specimen was detected on July 29, followed by two more males on Saturday, August 1, 2015. One OFF larva was detected on Monday, August 3, 2015.

A quarantine to control potential spread of OFF became effective on August 10, covering 75 square miles. No additional detections of the pest have occurred in the Covina area since the larval find on August 3. The second male attractant technique in Covina was completed on Monday, August 24, and a third treatment is scheduled for this Friday, September 4.

**Torrance/Carson (OFF)**

This project was initiated with the detection of a male OFF on June 26, 2015. Subsequently, a female was detected on August 3 and another male on August 4.

Eradication efforts to eliminate this infestation of OFF appear to be proving effective, with no additional detections having occurred since August 4. The second male attractant technique in Torrance was completed on Thursday, August 27. The second treatment is scheduled for Wednesday, September 10.

**Long Beach (OFF)**

This project was initiated with the detection of a male OFF on August 5, 2015 and another on August 8. These detection numbers have not met thresholds for establishment of a quarantine, but warranted enactment of eradication measures to eliminate the threat.

The first male attractant technique was completed on August 21, and a second treatment is scheduled for tomorrow, September 2. (Please see Attachment A.)

**Lakewood (OFF)      - New Project -**

On August 14, a male OFF specimen was detected in Long Beach. This was significantly closer in proximity to a detection of a male specimen on July 16 in Lakewood than the detections that prompted the existing eradication project in Long Beach noted above. As a result, a separate eradication project is underway using the standard techniques previously described. The first male attractant technique (MAT) was completed on Sunday, August 23. The second treatment is scheduled for Friday, September 4. (Please see Attachment B.)

**San Pedro (OFF)      - New Project -**

Three male OFF specimens have now been detected in the area of San Pedro and Rolling Hills. The first occurred on July 20 in Rolling Hills, followed by a second on July 22 in San Pedro and a third on August 19 in San Pedro. In response, an eradication project is underway using standard MAT techniques.

**Guava Fruit Fly** *Bactrocera correcta*

**Long Beach**

This project was initiated with detection of six (6) male Guava Fruit Flies in a single trap on May 6, 2015, the multiple flies warranting immediate undertaking of eradication treatments. Subsequently, two (2) additional male specimens were detected upon different properties on May 12 and May 13, respectively.

Surrounding the initial 6-fly detection location, the eighth male attractant technique was completed on August 25 and a ninth treatment is scheduled for next Monday, September 8. Surrounding the locations of the subsequent two Guava Fruit Fly detections, the eighth MAT treatment was completed last Friday, August 28, and a ninth treatment is scheduled for next Friday, September 11. Again, eradication efforts indicate great effectiveness, as no new Guava Fruit Fly detections have occurred since mid-May.

**Importance of Teamwork and Coordination of Prompt Responses to Exotic Pest Detections**

As emphasized in prior reports, these and other exotic pests pose significant threats to agriculture, home gardens, and native species, as our local climatic conditions and a rich supply of attractive host plants present a perfect environment in which to flourish. If undetected, or in the event of delayed eradication efforts, widespread infestations could result in significant increases in pesticide use, lower fruit and vegetable yields, destruction of landscaping, and disastrous effects upon local and statewide agriculture. While introductions of exotic pests are clearly occurring at increased levels this year, quick and effective delimitation and eradication efforts are proving successful, as each incident remains relatively contained.

We can remain proud of, and confident in, the coordinated and cooperative work of our ACWM Exotic Pest Detection staff, CDFA, and USDA in promptly detecting and addressing these threats.

I will continue to update you as details become available and warrant an update.

Residents may be directed to call the CDFA Pest Hotline at 1-800-491-1899 if they believe they have an infected tree, an exotic insect pest, or have questions about eradication efforts.

KEF:kp

c: Sachi Hamai, Interim Chief Executive Officer  
Patrick Ogawa, Acting Executive Officer  
Sheila Williams, Senior Manager, Executive Office  
Board Deputies



# ORIENTAL FRUIT FLY LONG BEACH, LOS ANGELES COUNTY 2015

Attachment A



..... MAXIMUM PROGRAM  
BOUNDARY

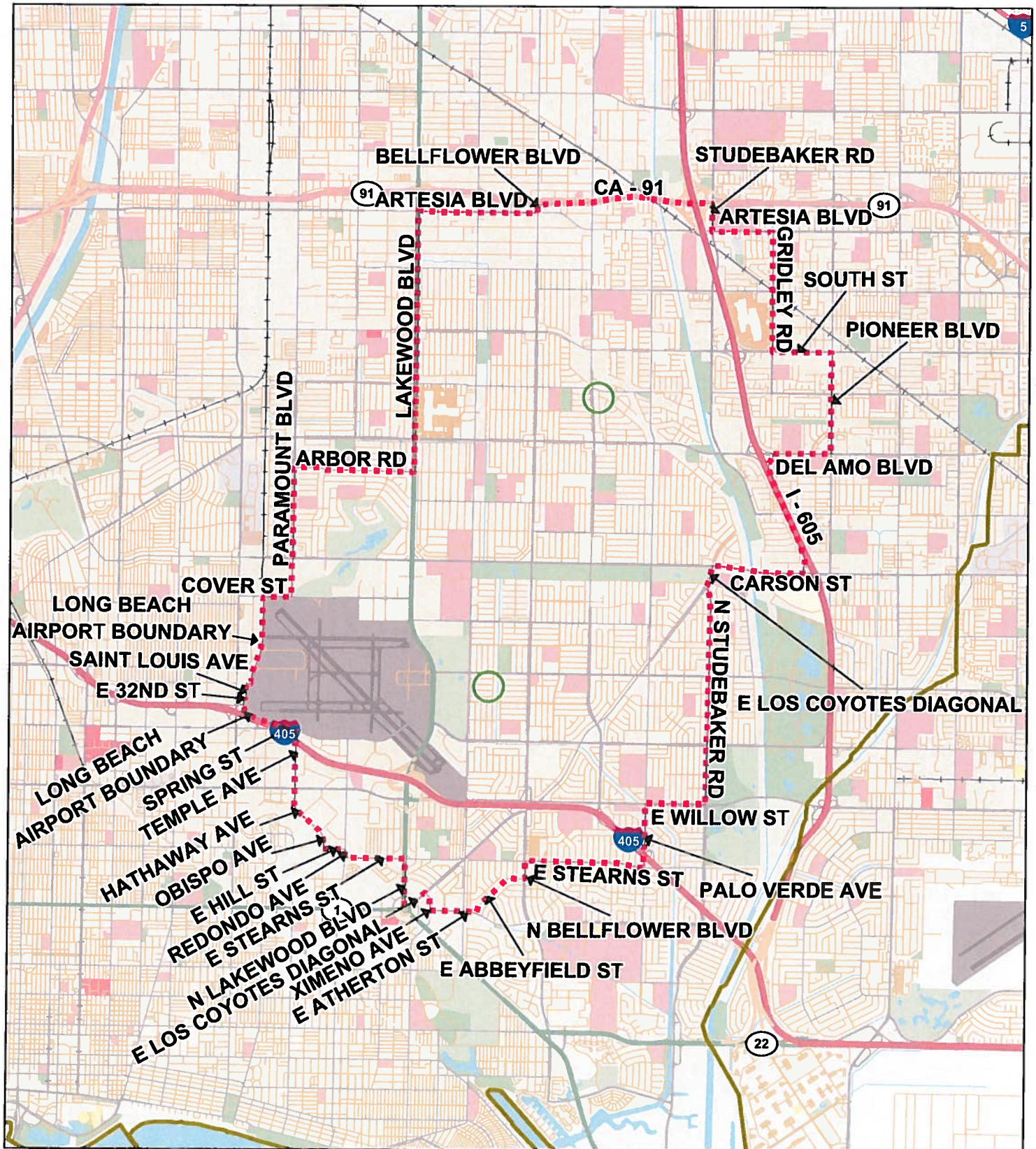
○ PROPOSED  
200M TREATMENT  
BOUNDARY

■ SENSITIVE ENVIRONMENTAL  
AREA / TREATMENT  
MITIGATIONS IN PLACE



**ORIENTAL FRUIT FLY  
LAKEWOOD, LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
2015**

Attachment B



..... MAXIMUM PROGRAM  
BOUNDARY



PROPOSED  
200M TREATMENT  
BOUNDARY



SENSITIVE ENVIRONMENTAL  
AREA / TREATMENT  
MITIGATIONS IN PLACE